

# THE GARZETTE



Volume 17, Issue 10

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

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## A note from the President, Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

SDR, Software Defined Radio, what's that? Well, come on out to the October 14 meeting and Mack McCormick, WB4MAK, will be there to not only explain SDR, but to do a demonstration.

There's a lot going on. Scout activities, Simulated Emergency Test, preparations for the Holiday Party, tables at the Alford Memorial Hamfest, planning for TechFest! If you have some extra time, or can you make some time. We could use a little help. Contact either of the officers or committee chairs, and they'll get you on the list.

So how would we pass a health and welfare message out of the immediate area? If you were deployed to an area where local communications was limited and the closest stations were 200 miles away what would you do? Darn if I know! Would the stations on the other end be using PSK31, DStar, Packet, Pactor? Or would you most likely use just plain English. Would you know how to format a message? You don't necessarily have to be the control operator to need to know how to pass messages. You could be assigned as an alternate at the station and need to know how to make it happen. Practice helps. Passing messages into and out of the National Traffic System could help you prepare for that emergency situation. I've been active in the NTS system for a few months, and I've found that it works. Messages are passed along via VHF or HF on a regular basis. Most of the practice messages are insignificant as to content, but they do keep the system working and prove that we can pass traffic. Practicing isn't a very glorious thing.

Listening for messages that may come your way and copying the message then in most cases delivering over telephone is a little on the monotonous side, but it is practice, and those that help pass messages on a regular basis are more prepared to take over in an emergency than those that don't. So go to the ARRL web site and look into the NTS and find a way to get involved. You can contact me, or the Georgia Section Net Manager for more details.

Thanks for continuing to check into the GARS Monday evening nets. Our turn out has been great. These nets are a great way to let other members know you have equipment for sale, and there is usually some type of announcement. These nets are great practice for that time that's coming where we need to have some organized communications to help in an area emergency. So participate when you can. Don't be afraid to volunteer to be a net control station, or an alternate net control. Again, great practice for helping in a tight situation.

I'll take this space to thank the officers, committee chairs, and all you volunteers that are always there when we need you. It takes a community to keep a radio club going. And we have a great community.

73

Norm, WA4ZXV

# October 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 0730 breakfast
5	6 2000 2m net	7	8 2100 6m net	9	10	11 0730 breakfast
12	13 2000 2m net	14	15 2100 6m net	16	17	18 0730 breakfast
19	20 2000 2m net	21	22 2100 6m net	23	24	25 0730 breakfast
26	27 2000 2m net	28	29 Oct. 2100 6m	30	31	1 0730 breakfast Hamfest
2 Hamfest	3 2000 2m net	4	5 2100 6m net	6	7	8 0730 breakfast

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## The GARZETTE

*The GARZETTE* is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to [ka4kkf@arrl.net](mailto:ka4kkf@arrl.net). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:  
Newsletter Editor:

David Adcock ka4kkf  
(770-271-9398)  
[ka4kkf@arrl.net](mailto:ka4kkf@arrl.net)

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048  
Attn: Newsletter Editor

## GARS Communication System

Do you know a boy or girl  
14 to 21 years old  
who wants to:

Climb, Hike  
Canoe, Camp  
Talk on an amateur radio  
Have Fun  
Tell them about

## **Venture Crew 73**

**We meet the second Tuesday  
of each Month at 7:00PM  
prior to the GARS meeting at  
St. Marguerite D'Youville  
Church..**

For more information Visit  
[www.gars.org/crew73](http://www.gars.org/crew73)  
or contact Ray Back:

Email [crew73@gars.org](mailto:crew73@gars.org)  
Phone (770) 295-9174

### 70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

### APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

### 6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)  
82.5 PL Tone

### D-Star

WD4STR  
146.970 - (600KHZ)  
440.550 + (5MHZ)

### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

### Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

### Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

### Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,

Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

On September 21st we had 3 candidates at the GARS sponsored testing session - 2 passed their Technician class license and 1 passed his General class license. Our next testing session will be Sunday, October 19th starting at 3:00pm local time.

Testing Session Location:

Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge No. 131 Building

465 S. Perry Street

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge location:

<http://lvlodge131.org/location.html>

Gwinnett ARES  
SET

Simulated Emergency  
Test

October 4th



## Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at [www.arrl-ga.org](http://www.arrl-ga.org)

### **First Saturday, Even Months**

9:00AM  
EOC Building  
Butch Nitz, AF4FS  
(770) 968-8780

### **First Wednesday**

7:00 PM  
ARRL/VEC  
Roberts School  
4681 School Street,  
Acworth  
Jodi Escher AG4BK  
770-387-1591

### **Second Tuesday**

7:00PM  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA  
(770) 498-7759

### **Second Saturday, Odd Months**

ARRL VEC  
8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist  
Church  
5312 West Mountain St.  
Stone Mountain  
Bob Varone, W4ETN  
(770) 978-3179

### **Third Saturday**

CA VEC  
9:00AM  
Marietta First United  
Methodist Church Room 305,  
56 Whitlock Ave  
Marietta  
David Still, WB4RRD  
(770) 973-2566

### **Fourth Tuesday**

ARRL VEC  
7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road,  
Douglasville

### **Third Sunday**

W5YI VEC  
3:00 - 5:00 PM  
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge  
465 South Perry Street  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770-963-5721

### **Fourth Sunday**

2:30 PM  
Georgia Tech Student Center  
Room 301  
David Ziskind, KE4QLH  
(404) 966-6864

## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

**Kennehoochee ARC**  
Southern Polytechnic  
State University  
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### Second Monday

**Georgia Tech ARC**  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical  
Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00 PM

### First Thursday

**Atlanta Radio Club**  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta  
Meeting is at 7:30 PM  
Talk In -146.820(-)

### **N.E. Georgia ARC**

Commerce Public Library  
Meeting is at 6:30 PM  
Talk In - 147.225(+)  
PL 123.0

### Second Thursday

**Alford Memorial Radio Club**  
*Annistown Road Baptist Church*  
*Intersection of Annistown Rd*  
*& Spain Rd*  
*Stone Mountain*  
Dinner at 6:00 PM  
Meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Third Tuesday

**North Fulton Amateur Radio  
League**  
Alpharetta EOC located at  
2970 Webb Bridge Road, in Al-  
pharetta  
meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

### First Saturday

**North GA QRP Club**  
Wieuca Baptist Church on  
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

September 2008 GARS General Meeting

September 9, 2008

President Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Introductions were then made of all those present.

First time guests were recognized.

Steve Henke, W9SH, gave an interesting program titled "Enhancing the Value of Amateur Radio with Asterisk Radio over IP".

Break

Committee Reports

Membership: the following new members were voted into full membership:  
Steve Richardson, KJ4EQM, technician class;  
Ray Bailey, N4GYN, general class; and  
James Loner, W4JHL, general class.

Treasurer: Checking account has a balance of \$6,337.14, and  
Money Market account has a balance of \$1,833.30.

The Holiday Party will be December 12 – mark your calendars, signup sheet will be available next month.

Scouting events: Webelos Woods are coming up September 26 and volunteers are needed and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> full weekend in October.

We will have a table at the Stone Mountain Hamfest the first weekend in November. We will also have a sales space in the bone yard for members.

Announcements:

Skywarn class will be held September 22.

There was a request for financial assistance for the youth lounge at the Stone Mountain Hamfest – a motion was made and approved to authorize the president to designate between \$100 and \$150.

Prize drawings were held.

Steve Henke donated a fully functional Asterisk unit for auction with the proceeds going to the club. The winning bid was \$25.

The meeting was adjourned.

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# HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST

Earl Whatley AF4FG

The problem with Huntsville is that you can't get there from here – a least not quickly or easily. The fastest way is 3 hours and 10 minutes almost half of which is on two lane roads over two mountains. Don't tell me you know a quicker way. You don't. My wife's family is from the area and over 20 years I have driven every possible route at every possible period of the day or night. It takes at least 3 hours and 10 minutes to get from Lawrenceville to the Von Braun Center but once you get there – what a hamfest!

There are over 40 dealers and a large bone yard all of which are inside. 5000 people showed up and it didn't feel very crowded. Parking is in an under ground garage with elevators that deliver you right to the entrance. There are 6 separate rooms devoted to forums and testing which are busy from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM on Saturday. Two rooms are in use all day Sunday. There are numerous activities Friday and Saturday nights. There were 31 different forums on Saturday covering most aspects of amateur radio but you can't go to but six at best. (You can't be in two places at once.) I went to four, one of which lasted two hours, and almost satisfied that radio "itch" we all get once in a while.

Huntsville has Redstone Arsenal and a large part of the space program. It's not surprising that there is a lot of brain power in the area and a good number of them are hams. (Most attend the hamfest. Next year I'm going to sell pocket protectors to pay for the trip). The forum on lightning protection was conducted by a PhD as are a number of the technical forums. His assistant was an electrical engineer with NASA and surprisingly the topic was presented such that the average ham could understand it easily. I immediately recognized several weaknesses in my shack and now I know what to do about them. There were two forums on DX with the 2<sup>nd</sup> building on what was presented in the first. The Southeastern DX club did an excellent job of explaining how to contact a DXpetition and revealed their secrets (There aren't any). No theory here, just the nuts and bolts of how to get the job done. By the way, they are "celebrating" their golden anniversary. Check out their button.

One of the best forums I've ever attended was presented by Bob Heil (yeah, that Bob Heil). The title was intimidating, "Audio Reinforcement in the Modern Ham Station", but the content was right on the button. "Good transmitted audio doesn't happen by accident. It requires knowledge of your own voice characteristics, an appreciation of your transmitter's characteristics, and an understanding of the physiology of human hearing so you can choose a microphone and adjust your radio." He wasn't selling anything (not directly anyway) but I doubt I'll ever use anything but a Heil microphone in the future. His company already has one microphone designed just for ICOM and I hope he's working on one for Yaesu and Kenwood but he didn't say.

Our own John Davis, WB4QDX, and Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH, presented a demo on D-STAR. In case you haven't gotten into this yet (I haven't) we should encourage these two to put on this demo for the club or at Tech Fest. It made a complicated subject almost understandable. (You'll never understand it fully until you get one and start using it.) At the conclusion of their presentation Giga Parts announced that Gwinnett ARES had won a new D-STAR repeater in a contest with numerous other organizations. John tied to look and act humble as he accepted for Gwinnett ARES but you could tell he and Ed wanted to jump up and down and shout. Go ahead. It was earned and well deserved. It's about time these two had some peer recognition.

In the interest of marital harmony I didn't attend any of the evening events. There was one I was interested in but I was tired and I still had to explain (or hide) what I bought. (Women can be so unreasonable sometimes. Why?)

Continued on page 8



## **The Trauma of Moving**

### **By**

### **Stan Edwards, WA4DYD**

I know a few of you have moved recently and I did so back in July. The trauma is just now sinking in. What trauma, you ask. Well consider having evolved your shack over the past 25 years. You had all the rig positions optimized for your particular style of operating. Your work bench was cluttered, just as you liked it. You knew where everything in your junk box was stored. Then all of a sudden, you were faced with taking that wonderful array of equipment apart, all the cables, radios, accessories, test equipment, tools and such, and putting it into boxes and moving to a new location that didn't have provisions for setting things back up just like you had it in quick order. Oh, don't forget the antenna restrictions of the new neighborhood. You can't get the antenna configuration you enjoyed back up and you're having to consider alternative antennas. There go the beams, satellite antennas and similar beautiful antenna arrays!

Then again, you have a blank slate. In my case, I now have an acre rather than the 0.4 acre lot in the city. There are a lot of tall hardwoods in back of the house. There is also an unfinished basement. Ah, I also had a few changes I had thought about making to the shack layout to incorporate a new radio. How do I begin?

Well, since the unfinished space in the basement will take a while to turn into a full fledged shack, I decided on a minimal operating position on the main living floor. Since one of the objectives of the move was to get away from two stories (yes, my knees are beginning to ache with age), I wanted something that I could use without traveling up and down stairs frequently. I was going to have an office on the living level, so that became a one-radio operating position, neatly tucked into a cranny of the roll top desk in my office. That and a couple of antennas, now up and operational got me on the air for basic operations. The antennas are in back of the house, inconspicuous to the neighbors (love the distance between houses with the acre lots). Oh, the antennas were installed with an A/B switch to go between the office radio and the "to be built" basement shack.

The next phase will be building out a room in the basement for the main shack, electronics work bench, book shelves and storage cabinets. Then I can get all the boxes unloaded, my junk box reorganized and work on that 160M loop antenna in the trees in back of the lot.

It's still a little traumatic, especially every time I am looking for something and need to search the 20 or so boxes in the basement from the old shack. But then again, having a shack with plenty of electrical outlets, computer networking connections and antenna and control cables through the 2" weather head at the back of the house may be worth the trauma. I'll reserve final judgment until after the new shack is completed. In the meanwhile, it will be buying studs, insulation, wall board, electrical supplies and such, and getting the proper building permits and working with only one radio and two antennas in the mean while. One thing I always wanted was one of those world map wallpaper murals in the shack.

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WA4DYD



Continued from page 6

Huntsville isn't as big as Dayton (but the forums are great). It's hard to get there (but not that bad). 5000 other hams are trying to win the grand prize (an ICOM 7000 on Saturday). Hot dogs cost \$3 each (and taste like a dummy load). Parking is \$5 (but it's inside). Coffee is horrible (there's a Starbucks down the street). Still, I can't wait till next year!



## GARS

### APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
<b>T-SHIRT</b>				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
<b>GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
<b>GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
<b>SWEATSHIRT</b>				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
<b>LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY</b>				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
<b>HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY</b>				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
<b>GARS BADGE -- WITH name &amp; call</b>			\$9.00	
<b>HAT -- WITHOUT name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
<b>HAT -- WITH name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

**TOTAL ORDER PRICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:*

**GARS**  
**P.O. Box 88**  
**Lilburn, Georgia 30048**

**NOTE:** Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## RENEWAL

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**      /      /

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

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CENTER, INC.**

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Unibody and Frame Repair  
Marty Fowler, KE4MLH      Mark Justice

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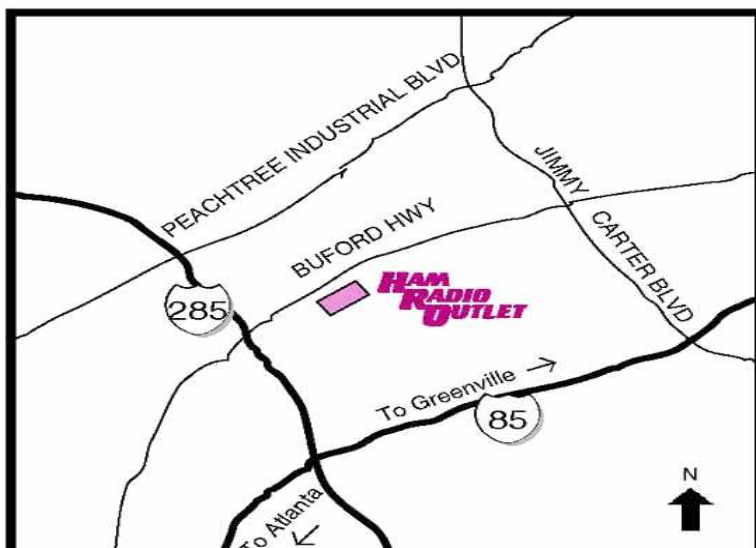


**Mark Holmes**  
Manager  
KJ4VO

**6071 Buford Highway**  
**Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)**  
**770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927**  
**Fax 770-263-9548**

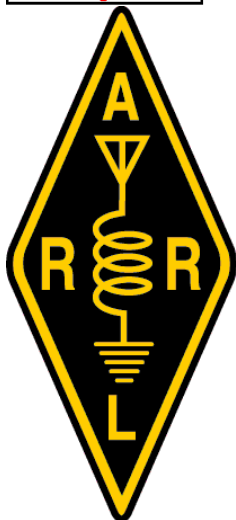
**Mark KJ4VO      Bill W5RQR      David KE4VDH      Tom KB4HQA**

**Dale W4GCL      Jim N1ABM      Josh W4JDH      Brian KC4UKR**



Alinco  
Icom  
Japan Radio Corp  
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ADI  
Yaesu  
Alpha Delta  
Arrow  
Butternut  
Create  
Cushcraft  
Diamond  
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Hustler  
Hy-Gain (Telex)  
KLM  
Larsen  
M2  
Premier  
Valor  
Van Gorden

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

### Saturday Morning

### Breakfast

Join us at the Golden Coral  
on Riverside Drive in

Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 14th

The Meetings are on the  
Second Tuesday of the  
month 7:30pm at the  
St Marguerite  
D'Youville Church,

85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.  
Just off Highway 29 SW  
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web  
site.

<http://www.gars.org>

### PRUDENTIAL GEORGIA REALTY

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**GARS Specialist  
Top Negotiator  
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Helping "HAMS" with the Sale and  
Purchase of their properties takes  
Extra Time, Effort and Dedication.  
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that Commitment.

Call me for when You or Your Friends  
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\*\*References available upon Request